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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 22 MAY 50

SUBJECT Instructions Governing the Wearing of
Uniforms, Civilian Clothes and Decorations
within the HVA

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The following pertinent sections are translated from an HVA directive [redacted] appearing over the signature of Polizeikommandeur Engelbrecht.

1. The wearing of civilian clothes during off-duty hours and on leave is permitted without the necessity of gaining special approval for all Volkspolizei officers above and including the rank of Oberrat. It is, however, expected that the least possible use will be made of this permission. All other Volkspolizei ranks, to wear civilian clothes, must obtain from their commanders written permission, which may be given only in substantiated instances and then only for a short specified period.
2. Collar tabs are to be worn as follows:
 - a. From Anwärter through Hauptwachtmeister: tabs with green piping.
 - b. From Polizeimeister through Inspizieur: tabs with silver piping.
 - c. Chefinspekteur and above: tabs with gold piping.
3. Blouse buttons will be silver for the ranks from Anwärter through Inspizieur, and gold for the rank of Chefinspekteur. The collar tab stars will correspond to the color of the blouse buttons and will not include the color either of the Deutsche Lander or of the German Democratic Republic.
4. The cord worn above the visor on the uniform cap will be as follows:
 - a. From Anwärter through Hauptwachtmeister: green, fastened with black buttons.
 - b. From Polizeimeister through Inspizieur: silver, with silver buttons.
 - c. Chefinspekteur and above: gold, with gold buttons.

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5. Rank Insignia:

Variations in rank will be designated by shoulder insignia. They will be worn on blouse and coat on both shoulders, and will be fastened 1 cm. from the middle of the shoulder and next to the shoulder seam. Insignia will be worn on all types of uniform other than the sport uniform.

6. Training and Work Uniform:

Rank insignia on the training and work uniforms of Volkspolizei Anwärter to Volkspolizeireiter will consist of washable shoulder tabs with sewn stars corresponding in shape, color and size to the regular tabs. The shoulder tab of the Polizeianwärter will consist of two adjacent groups of four dark blue strips of flat braid on a dark green background. The shoulder tab for the grades from Polizeiwachtmeister to Hauptwachtmeister will consist of two adjacent groups of two strips of dark blue flat braid, surrounded by two strips of silver braid and dark blue herringbone, on a dark green background. The shoulder tab of the Polizeimeister will consist of adjacent strips of doubled dark blue braid with a silver stripe in the middle, surrounded by two silver braids crossed one half cm. from the edge of the tab, on a dark green background. The shoulder tab for the ranks of Polizeikommandeur to Polizeirat will consist of two adjacent groups of four silver strips of braid on a dark green background. The shoulder tab for the ranks of Polizeioberrat to Inspekteur will consist of two adjacent groups of four silver strips of braid interlaced three times on a dark green background. The shoulder tab for the grades of Chefinspekteur to Generalinspekteur of the Volkspolizei will consist of two adjacent groups of two strips of gold braid interlaced twice with one silver braid in the middle of each on a dark green background. The stars on the shoulder tabs of the Polizeicberwachtmeister and Hauptwachtmeister are silver, for the ranks from Oberkommissar to Inspekteur, gold, and for the grades from Chefinspekteur to Generalinspekteur, silver.

7. Wearing of Medals and Orders:

The following decorations may be worn:

- a. Order of Honor of the Volkspolizei.
- b. The Activist Medal.
- c. Order of the Spanish Fighters.
- d. Decoration of the VVN.
- e. FDJ Medal.
- f. Decoration of the World Youth Federation.
- g. Medal of the Society for German-Soviet Friendship.
- h. Special decorations per order of the commandant.